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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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People's Police
2. Border Police Department

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RETURN TO CIA

25X1 Main Administration of German Volkspolizei.

25X1 1. In the fall of 1950, the Hauptverwaltung Deutsche Volkspolizei
25X1 (Main Administration of German Volkspolizei) (HVDVP) was in
25X1 about 20 buildings of a former home for aged people on Secken-
25X1 dorfsstrasse, Berlin-Pankow. The HVDVP headquarters had a personnel
25X1 strength of about 500 men and was headed by VP Generalinspekteur
25X1 Karl Haron. The first deputy chief and PK (Polit
25X1 Kultur) chief was VP Chefinspekteur **Herbert Gruenstein**,
25X1 a Soviet citizen, former instructor at a
25X1 political school in the U.S.S.R., and the son-in-law of Anna
25X1 Pauker. Gruenstein's assistant was VP Kommandeur Rubens (fnu),
the wife of the Chefinspekteur of VP Medical Service. Second
deputy chief of the HVDVP was VP Generalinspekteur **Willi Seifert**,
a native of Thuringia, who had emigrated
to the U.S.S.R. and fought on the **Loyalist** side during the Spanish
Civil War.

2. The divisions of the HVDVP were the following:

Division	Personnel
25X1 Sekretariat	VP Inspekteur Dr. Engelhardt (fnu),
25X1 (Secretariat)	chief
25X1	
25X1	VP Kommandeur Acksteiner (fnu),
25X1	deputy chief
25X1	
25X1 Allgemeine Abteilung	VP Inspekteur Girth, (fnu), chief,
25X1 (General Section)	
25X1 Kommandantur	VP Chefinspekteur Glaeser (fnu),
25X1 (Headquarters Echelon)	chief

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Hauptabteilung FK
(Polit-Culture Department)

Chefinspekteur **Herbert Gruenstein**
chief.

VP Inspekteur Breitenfeld (fnu).
deputy chief

25X1
25X1

Chef-inspekteur Goerzinger (fnu).
deputy chief

25X1
25X1

Hauptabteilung Schutzpolizei
(Regular Police Department)

VP Chefinspekteur Strieter (fnu).
chief

25X1
25X1

Hauptabteilung Kriminalpolizei
(Criminal Police Department)

VP Chefinspekteur Maier (fnu).
chief

25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1

VP Inspekteur Mellmann (fnu), deputy
chief in charge of training

VP Inspekteur Odvadlik (fnu), assis-
tant chief

25X1

Hauptabteilung Transportpolizei
(Transportation Police Department)

VP Chefinspekteur Auerswald (fnu).
chief

25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1

VP Inspekteur Faerber (fnu), chief
of the criminal police section

Hauptabteilung Gesundheitswesen
(Medical Department)

VP Chefinspekteur Dr. Rubens (fnu),
a surgeon.

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Hauptabteilung Verwaltungspolizei (Administrative Police Department)	VP Chefinspekteur Erich Lust chief [redacted]	25X1 25X1
	[redacted]	
	VP Kommandeur Fischer (fnu) , deputy chief [redacted]	25X1 25X1
	[redacted]	
Hauptabteilung Haftachen (Detention Department)	VP Inspekteur Gertig (fnu) , chief [redacted]	25X1 25X1
	[redacted]	
Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei (Border Police Department)	VP Chefinspekteur Schuldt-Hermann (fnu), chief [redacted]	25X1
	[redacted]	25X1
	[redacted]	25X1 25X1
	VP Inspekteur Heinz Stock , chief of staff [redacted]	
	[redacted]	25X1
	VP Inspekteur Reimann (fnu) , chief of the criminal section [redacted]	25X1
	[redacted]	
	VP Kommandeur Hertel (fnu) , chief of border and customs checkpoints.	25X1
	[redacted]	
Hauptabteilung Intendantur (Administrative Department)	Von Weech (fnu) , chief [redacted]	25X1 25X1
	[redacted]	

VP Border Police.

3. On 28 November 1946, the Grenzpolizei (Border Police) was activated by order of the former SIA (Soviet Military Administration). It was controlled by the Landespolizei headquarters of the individual Soviet Zone Laender. The Grenzpolizei personnel in Land Saxony numbered 970 at that time. On 1 May 1947, the number of Grenzpolizei was doubled and the Grenzpolizei units were combined with the newly activated VP Bereitschaften under headquarters of their own. The headquarters controlling the Grenzpolizei and the Bereitschaftspolizei in Land Saxony was located in Dresden.

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On 1 July 1949, the VP Bereitschaften were separated from the Grenzpolizei and subordinated to the HVA while the Grenzpolizei was subordinated to the Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei (Border Police Department) of the MVDVP in Berlin. At the same time, the Grenzpolizei personnel of the individual Laender were reduced in number to facilitate the activation of the three Ring-um-Berlin Grenzpolizei Bereitschaften. The Grenzpolizei personnel in Land Saxony was reduced by 300 to a total of 1,500. In the fall of 1950, the Grenzpolizei in the entire Soviet Zone of Germany numbered 16,800, their authorized strength being 18,000. This figure does not include the personnel of the Kontrollpassierpunkte (border checkpoints) (KPP) and Zollpassierpunkte (customs checkpoints) (ZPP).

4. The central headquarters of the Grenzpolizei is the Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei (Border Police Department) of the MVDVP. It is organized into the offices of chief, the PK chief, the chief of staff, the operations section with the subdivisions West, East, North, the training section, the criminal section, the KPP and ZPP sections, the secretariat, the liaison officer to the Administrative Department, and the cartographic office.
5. The Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei of the MVDVP controls one Grenzpolizeiabteilung (Border Police Division) at each Landespolizei headquarters of the Soviet Zone Laender, which are located in Dresden for Land Saxony, in Weimar for Land Thuringia, in Halle for Land Saxony-Anhalt, in Schwerin for Land Mecklenburg, in Potsdam for Land Brandenburg, and in Berlin-Weissensee for the Ring-um-Berlin. The Grenzpolizeiabteilungen are administratively attached to the Landespolizei headquarters, but, like the agencies of the **Transportpolizei**, receive their operational orders directly from the MVDVP. The Grenzpolizeiabteilungen control the Grenzpolizei Bereitschaften stationed in the individual Laender. They do not control the Grenzpolizei Lehrbereitschaften (training units), however. The Grenzpolizeiabteilung in Berlin-Weissensee is directly subordinate to the Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei of the MVDVP for all matters. A Grenzpolizeiabteilung is staffed with 50 people, including the chief, the PK chief, the chief of staff, the political section, the operations section, the criminal section, the liaison officer to the Administrative Department, a cartographer, and a guard detail of one officer and six police.
6. The Grenzpolizei is tactically organized into Grenzpolizeiabschnitte (Border Police Areas) as follows:

Grenzpolizeiabschnitt	Soviet Zone Land	Location of Grenzpolizei Bereitschaften
<u>Nord</u>	Mecklenburg	Doberan Stralsund Greifswald
<u>Ost</u> (national border)	Brandenburg	Frankfurt/Oder Angermuende
	Saxony	Bautzen Pirna Plauen
<u>West</u> (zonal border)	Thuringia	Befell Hildburghausen (5) Dornbach Mihla Worbis Beneckenstein

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Saxony-Anhalt

Osternieck
Gardelegen
Salzwedel

Mecklenburg

Udena
Wittenburg
Schoenberg

7. A Grenzpolizei Bereitschaft has a total strength of 594 police, organized into a headquarters of 39 men and three Grenzkommandanturen of 185 men each. The headquarters of a Grenzpolizei Bereitschaft consists of the commanding officer, the PK chief, the chief of staff, two instructors for technical training and inspection, two SSD instructors, one personnel officer with two assistants, one finance officer with one assistant, one SED secretary, one FDJ secretary, one ordnance officer, one supply officer, five drivers, two female telephone operators, one teletype operator, one cook, and several other technical and guard personnel.
8. A Grenzkommandatur has a headquarters of 35 men and four Grenzkommandos of 38 men each. The headquarters consists of the chief, the PK chief, the chief of staff, the adjutant, the intelligence officer, the personnel officer, the supply officer, the ordnance officer, the administrative officer, two instructors, one officer of the guard, four drivers, 12 guards, six clerks, and the cook. The intelligence officer, who is the chief of the Ermittlungsabteilung (Investigation Section), is assisted by **six male and two female** guards. His missions are the identification of spies, agents, saboteurs, and criminals, and the collection of intelligence material on political and police personalities and the occupation powers in West Germany. He receives his directives from the criminal section of the Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei.
9. A Grenzkommando consists of the chief, who has the rank of Kommissar, the PK chief, one VP Meister, four VP Hauptwachmeister functioning as squad leaders, eight VP Oberwachmeister and 24 VP Wachmeister.
10. Grenzpolizei units stationed along the zonal border were inferior to those located along the eastern border toward Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the Baltic seaboard. It was planned to exchange these units some time and to screen, reorganize, and retrain the units withdrawn from duty along the zonal border.
11. Newly inducted border police, earmarked for service with Grenzpolizei units along the eastern border of the Soviet Zone of Germany, first undergo a two-week basic training at a Landesgrenzpolizeischule. If they prove suitable for border duty, they are assigned to a Grenzbereitschaft and immediately employed on border duty. One of the four squads of each Grenzkommando is **sent** for training at a so-called Kommandatur school, while the three other squads are on border duty. Such intermittent training courses usually last two weeks, but can be extended to three weeks by order of the Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei. Thus, each border policeman undergoes a two or three-week period of intensive training every two or three months. The personnel on border duty receive theoretical instruction six hours a week. The squad leaders attend three-month courses at the Landesschule of the Grenzpolizeiabteilung every six months, being trained there in accordance with directives issued by the Hauptabteilung Grenzpolizei.
12. Newly-inducted border police earmarked for service with Grenzpolizei units along the zonal border first undergo a one-week basic training at the Landesschule of the Grenzpolizeiabteilung of the individual Laender. They are subsequently transferred to a Grenzbereitschaft and immediately assigned to border duty. From time to time, whole Grenzbereitschaften, without officers,

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are withdrawn from border duty and moved to Sondershausen or Aschersleben, where they are taken over by the training cadres there and assume the character of Grenzlehrbereitschaften.

13. The training methods of the Grenzpolizei units along the zonal border proved inferior to that of the units along the eastern border. It was therefore planned to subject all Grenzpolizei units to the training system practiced by the units on the eastern border. The Lehrbereitschaften are to remain in existence, but are to be reorganized to take over the training of all Grenzpolizei recruits while simultaneously constituting operational Grenzbereitschaften.
14. It was planned to establish a central Grenzpolizei school in Sondershausen by 1 October or 1 November 1950. The school is to train officers and non-commissioned officers in six-month courses, each course having 1,000 trainees.
15. Since June 1950, key officers of the Grenzpolizei have been obliged to take correspondence courses in addition to the regular training courses at schools. Correspondence-course letters are being published monthly. The answers to the problems given in the letters have to be submitted to the superior headquarters of the units.
16. Each Grenzkommando is armed with 36 model 98-K carbines and six models 08 and 38 pistols. Thirty rounds of ammunition for each carbine are kept at the Grenzkommando, 16 rounds at the Grenzkommandantur and 15 rounds at the Grenzbereitschaft. Sixteen rounds of ammunition for each pistol are kept at the Grenzkommando, eight rounds at the Grenzkommandantur and eight rounds at the Grenzbereitschaft. There were plans to exchange 12 carbines of each Grenzkommando for 12 model 44 submachine guns, still being stored at a Potsdam ordnance depot in the fall of 1950.
17. Grenzpolizei personnel wear blue VP uniforms with the white letter G on a green field on their left upper sleeves. There were plans to issue new Grenzpolizei uniforms in the spring of 1951, consisting of grayish-green trousers to be tucked into laced shoes or boots, short field blouses, and caps designed like those of the former German mountain troops.
18. There are plans to increase the Grenzpolizei and to reorganize it under a Hauptverwaltung Grenzpolizei (Main Administration of Border Police) under the Soviet Zone Ministry of State Security. Colonel Nazayuk (fnu), a Soviet liaison officer to the HVDVP, stated in a conference that the Grenzpolizei must be made capable of taking over the military protection of the borders during a possible civil conflict. He pointed out that it was the Soviet border guard troops who offered the first resistance against the German troops invading the USSR in 1941.

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Comment :

- 25X1 (1) According to the periodical Die Volkspolizei, issue dated 25 September 1950, VP Chefinspekteur Herbert Glaeser is chief of the Hauptabteilung Intendantur (Administrative Department) of the HVDVP.
- 25X1 (2) **Comment:** [redacted] Chefinspekteur Herbert Herklots (Herklots?) as head of this Hauptabteilung.
- 25X1 (3) **Comment:** [redacted] Max Zaspel as head of this Hauptabteilung.
- 25X1 (4) **Comment:** According to newspaper dispatches VP Chefinspekteur Hans von Weech is carried as chief of the Hauptabteilung Intendantur of the HVA rather than of the HVDVP.
- 25X1 (5) **Comment:** The Grenzbereitschaft previously stationed in Hildburghausen was split up on 1 September 1949 and reassigned to the Grenzbereitschaften in Koepfelsdorf and Meiningen. [redacted]
- 25X1

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